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September 27, 2006

The Honorable Tom Coburn, MD
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management,
Government Information, and International Security
United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
439 Hart Senate Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

I am writing to respond to your letter of July 27 regarding your request for information on federal appropriations to the University of North Dakota. Recall that in my letter of August 30, I indicated that the University would be pleased to provide you with the information you requested and that we would do so as soon as possible.

As an attachment to this letter I have included data from the University of North Dakota's annual research reports related to federal awards for fiscal years 2000 through 2005. These data provide details on each of the funded projects: for example, the funding agency, amount of the award, title of the award, etc. Complete copies of the reports can be accessed at <http://www.und.edu/dept/research>.

The majority of federal awards received by the University of North Dakota support student financial aid and research. As you know, student aid is based on financial need and is awarded on information provided in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Federal awards in support of research come to the University as federal grants or contracts, which are regulated under OMB Circular A-21. The University of North Dakota has filed all of the appropriate reports with those federal agencies that fund research at this institution. The University of North Dakota is very careful to comply with all aspects of A-21 and all other specific award conditions.

The University of North Dakota does not maintain an Office of Governmental Affairs. Rather, my office, assisted by a consulting group, informs Congress and federal agencies of our research priorities. The University does not have a formal policy that describes the process by which we identify our research priorities. The process is public and begins with a solicitation to the faculty and administrators for their input. Because much of what we do in research is based on partnerships, the University sets its priorities with regional, state, and federal social and economic impact issues in mind.

Senator Tom Coburn

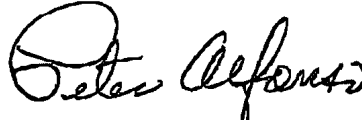
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Our research programs include the best school of aerospace sciences in the country, namely the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences. Our School of Medicine, the only one in the state, is one of the nation's leaders in rural health research and service delivery. The University is also one of the nation's leading contributors to sustainable and renewable energy solutions as well as a host of environmental issues. The significance of our research programs on the economic impact of the upper Midwest is crucial. For example, our annual research expenditures generate over 1500 jobs, create more than \$160 million in economic output, and generate over \$5 million in local/state and \$15 million in federal tax revenue. The University's research magazine, UND Discovery, describes these and many other very successful research programs and can be accessed at <http://www.und.edu/dept/research/>.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to communicate with you and describe some of the ways that federal support of the University of North Dakota aids our state and helps meet the Administration's goals in regard to our nation's competitiveness, high paying job creation, and economic development. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Peter Alfonso, Ph.D.

Vice President for Research

PA/trt

C: Charles E. Kupchella, President, UND
Attachment: